I Claim:

1. Fishing apparatus comprising:

a weight comprising attachment means for attaching the weight to a fishing line; and

means for projecting the weight into a body of water,

wherein the means for projecting comprises:

a barrel having a bore, the bore being adapted to receive the weight;

a tank adapted to hold a reservoir of compressed gas, such as air; and

valve means connected between the bore and tank, and operable to supply compressed gas from the tank to the bore to project the weight out of the barrel.

2. Apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the weight is elongate, having a longitudinal axis which is aligned substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the bore when the weight is received in the bore.

3. Apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the weight is generally cylindrical.

4. Apparatus according to Claim 3 wherein the weight comprises a tube filled with dense material.

5. Apparatus according to Claim 4 wherein the weight comprises a lead-filled copper tube.

6. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the weight is spherical.

7. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the weight comprises metallic core coated with a polymeric material.

8. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said attachment means is provided at one end of the weight.

9. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said attachment means comprises an eye, to which the fishing line may be tied.

10. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the attachment means comprises a flexible line, extending from the weight, to which the fishing line may be attached.

11. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said tank is elongate having an outlet at one end, said outlet being in line with the valve means and the barrel.

12. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the tank is generally cylindrical.

13. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the tank is mounted on a base plate.

14. Apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the tank and base plate are integral, the base plate closing a lower end of the tank.

15. Apparatus according to any one of Claim 13, wherein the tank is mounted on the base plate such that when the base plate is horizontal, the tank is inclined at an angle of approximately 45° to the horizontal.

16. Apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a line attached to the weight, and an anchor slidably mounted on the line but unable to slide past the weight.

17. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the tank comprises an inlet attached to an inlet valve, through which compressed gas may be supplied to the tank.

18. Apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the inlet valve is a non-return valve.

19. Apparatus according to Claim 17, further comprising a hose connected to the inlet valve and adapted for connection to a compressed-gas refill tank.

20. Apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a compressed-gas refill tank arranged to replenish said tank after operation of the valve means.

21. Apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a pump operable to fill said tank with compressed gas.

22. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said tank is adapted to hold gas at pressures up to at least 2500 psi.

23. Apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a pressure gauge arranged to provide an indication of the pressure of gas inside the tank.

24. Apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein the pressure gauge is calibrated in terms of the distance the weight is projected for a particular inclination of the barrel and tank gas pressure.

25. Apparatus according to Claim 1, comprising a base adapted to engage a ground surface and support the barrel in an inclined position.

26. Apparatus according to Claim 25, wherein the base comprises a base plate adapted to rest on the ground.

27. Apparatus according to Claim 26, where the base comprises at least one spike, extending from the base plate, for insertion into the ground.

28. Apparatus according to Claim 25, wherein the base comprises at least one spike for insertion into the ground.

29. Apparatus according to Claim 25, wherein the base is adapted to support the barrel such that its bore is inclined at 45° to the horizontal.

30. Apparatus according to Claim 25, wherein the barrel is supported such that its orientation with respect to the base is fixed.

31. Apparatus according to Claim 25, further comprising means for adjusting the orientation of the barrel with respect to the base to alter the inclination of the bore.

32. Apparatus according to Claim 25, wherein the base comprises adjustment means for adjusting the inclination of the barrel bore to the horizontal.

33. Apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising means for indicating an inclination of the barrel bore to the horizontal.

34. Apparatus according to Claim 33, wherein the means for indicating is arranged to indicate when the barrel bore is at 45° to the horizontal.

35. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the valve means comprises a manually operated valve.

36. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the valve means comprises a trigger valve including a sealing member held against a valve seat by gas pressure in the tank, a hammer triggerable to separate the sealing member from the valve seat to permit gas flow through the valve, and a trigger mechanism for triggering the hammer.

37. Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the valve means comprises means for operating it remotely.